

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND MARINE
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MINUTES
AUGUST 16, 2007**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Parks and Recreation Commission meeting was called to order by Harry Saltzgaver, President, at 9:02 a.m., at the El Dorado Park West Senior Center Library. Thomas Shippey, Manager of the Maintenance Operations Bureau, took roll call and confirmed a quorum.

Present: Harry Saltzgaver, President
Albert Guerra
Bob Livingstone
Sarah Tong Sangmeister

Absent: Drew Satariano, Vice President
Brett Waterfield
Simon George

Staff: Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Thomas Shippey, Manager, Maintenance Operations Bureau
Anna Mendiola, Park Development Officer
J.C. Squires, Manager, Business Operations Bureau
Tara Yeats, Financial Services Officer
Lt. Joe Stilinovich, Park Rangers
Bill Greco, Supervising Park Ranger
Lori Jarmacz, Aquatics Supervisor
Robin Black, Executive Assistant to the Director

Guests: Robert Lamond

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Commissioner Guerra to excuse the absences of Vice President Drew Satariano, Commissioner Brett Waterfield, and Commissioner Simon George. The motion carried unanimously.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 19, 2007

It was moved by Commissioner Tong Sangmeister and seconded by Commissioner Guerra to approve the July 19, 2007 Parks and Recreation Commission minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

III COMMISSION ACTION ITEMS

#07-0801

PERSONAL SERVICES/INSTRUCTION AGREEMENTS-MONTHLY APPROVAL

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Commissioner Guerra to authorize the Community Recreation Services Bureau Manager or his or her management designee to execute the Personal Services and Instruction Agreements and amend Attachment "A" of the agreements as needed. The motion carried unanimously.

#07-0802

AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE A PERMIT FOR THE OPERATION OF A PICNIC SERVICE CONCESSION WITH IN THE EVENT, LLC FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR EXPIRING ON JULY 31, 2008, WITH OPTIONS FOR RENEWAL SUBJECT TO THE DISCRETION OF THE DIRECTOR

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Commissioner Tong Sangmeister to authorize the Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine to execute a permit with In the Event, LLC for a term of one year, expiring July 31, 2008, with options for renewal subject to the discretion of the Director. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE President Saltzgaver, Chair

President Saltzgaver stated that the Committee met and discussed the budget. He said that next Monday, August 20, a Budget Workshop is scheduled to discuss Culture, Education, and Leisure, which is where the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department would be discussed. He said he had a conflict and would not be able to attend. Commissioner Livingstone said that he would be out of town.

Mr. Hester stated that the Budget Workshop on August 20, would consist mostly of a presentation and there would probably not be an opportunity to make comments at that time. He said there would be more of an opportunity for the Commission to make comments at the August 21 Budget Workshop.

President Saltzgaver stated that he could probably attend for a short time on August 21. He said that he would discuss this with Vice President Satariano.

B. FINANCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE
President Saltzgaver, Chair

Mr. J.C. Squires stated that the Committee met and discussed the fee schedule. He said that this item would be on the September agenda, to enable it to be posted in advance in the newspaper and at the community centers.

1) FY 08 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Mr. Squires stated that the budget booklet was included in the Commissioner's packets. He went over the Department's core values, as stated in the packet. He then went over the Department's significant accomplishments. He distributed the focus area definitions and summarized the Department's budget.

Ms. Tara Yeats went over the Department's programs that had significant changes.

Mr. Squires said that regarding performance measurement, the Department is going to bring back consultants who met with the management staff over a year ago. They have been invited back to go over the Department's performance measures. He said that the Parks and Recreation Commissioners would also be invited to attend.

President Saltzgaver asked how staff knows if the performance measure goals are realistic.

Mr. Squires responded that for many of the measures, the track record is being developed. The issue is that a lot of the Department's measures are very high-level and they come back to customer satisfaction, which makes them a once a year indicator. He said that it would take five years to get five touches. With this system, the Department can make operational decisions throughout the year. If the Department is not on target to meet their measure, they can start making changes. He said that they would discuss redesigning the measures, particularly on the recreation side, and pushing them down, deep into the programs so we can give you good measures monthly, to see if the Department is achieving our goals.

Mr. Hester stated that what the Department found is that we were doing a lot of the measuring already, just as head counts, but it was obvious there were some gaps.

Commissioner Guerra asked why there were an estimated 7,200 less aquatic visits?

Ms. Yeats responded that Silverado Pool would have a reduction in hours back to what is actually budgeted. The Department has been providing what has been budgeted. She said that Lori Jarmacz, the Aquatics Supervisor, was in attendance and was prepared to discuss Silverado Pool.

Ms. Jarmacz stated that they have overspent the budget at Silverado Pool. She said that after a major renovation, the pool was opened in late November 2006. It had been closed for a very long time and from the time of the reopening, staff operated that pool seven days a week to provide service to that community. In order to operate within the budget, the Department is not able to operate seven days a week at that facility. The Silverado Pool will be closed on Sundays and closed on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the school year.

Mr. Squires stated that they used the salary savings to expand the service level at that pool to get back the capacity that had been there pre-renovation.

President Saltzgaver asked if the pool budget includes next summer's plan for shared use of the Jordan pool.

Mr. Squires responded that it does not include that. He said that the Jordan pool program would be planned downtown.

Ms. Yeats stated that these figures were coordinated prior to the decision being made to use the Jordan pool.

Ms. Yeats discussed reductions to the extended day programs.

Mr. Hester stated that residents pay \$50 for morning and afternoon extended day care, for a week, at Houghton, Silverado, and Veterans Parks. He said that for full cost recovery, the cost would be \$110 per person, per week. He stated that this service serves a total of 65 people total, at all three sites combined. Mr. Hester stated that there is an alternative of after school programs at schools, which are adjacent to each of those park sites. The YMCA has after school programs also. He said that a decision has been made to cut this program from the budget, as opposed to raising the rates 100 percent.

Ms. Yeats discussed reductions to the unfunded programs, such as snow days, Halloween carnivals, and Easter egg hunts. The Department provided these through salary savings for the last several years and unfortunately, we do not have that available next year. Those programs are not funded in the next fiscal year. She said that the Halloween carnivals and Easter egg hunts are about \$49,000, and the snow days come to about \$10,000 per site, for a total of a little over \$100,000 to provide these services.

Mr. Hester stated that these events were not budgeted, but the Department was able to have them because of salary savings. There are no more salary savings for 2008.

Ms. Yeats stated that this information would be presented at the upcoming Budget Workshop. She then discussed the budget under each of the programs.

C. PARK SAFETY COMMITTEE
Commissioner George, Chair

President Saltzgaver stated that the Committee met this morning. He asked if anything was heard from the Youth Advisory Commission of the 5th Council District regarding the skate park.

Mr. Hester responded he has not heard anything.

Lt. Joe Stilinovich stated that an issue came up with a staff member being unable to contact a park ranger. He said that if a park ranger is talking to a citizen or working, they do not answer their cell phones because it is rude and unsafe. He said that to help fix this problem, a memo was drafted to all Department employees stating when to call the park rangers or the police, and that will be distributed. That will shed some light so there is not an unrealistic expectation of always being able to reach a park ranger. They also conducted a self-initiated internal audit of the vehicles, radios, and weapons. They lost one radio, which probably occurred during the move. They changed their policy in how the radios are handled.

Lt. Joe Stilinovich said that right after the Municipal Band Concerts at El Dorado Park West, traffic is so busy that the park rangers have to close a lane on Studebaker Road, so all the cars can leave. He said that they usually set out flares to direct traffic and that is a lot of sulfur burning in the air. He and Mr. Greco looked into some other alternatives and came up with a product called Power Flare. It is an indestructible, low profile light, powered by batteries, and vehicles can drive over it and not damage it. He said that they are looking into

possibly purchasing these items because it would be better for the environment and better for the neighborhood. Lt. Stilinovich said that they are a bit cost prohibitive but the batteries are rechargeable and last for about three years. The park rangers are evaluating them currently.

Mr. Greco stated that they updated the first aid kits in each of the park ranger vehicles. He then went over the monthly highlights.

D. PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE
Commissioner Guerra, Chair

Commissioner Guerra stated that the Committee did not meet.

E. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS COMMITTEE
Vice President Satariano, Chair

1) CREATION OF ADDITIONAL DOG PARK IN WESTERN HALF OF THE CITY

Commissioner Livingstone said that the Committee met and discussed a request for possible dog park sites on the west side of the city. There were several options and there are four sites listed. The Committee agreed that they didn't want to put forward four sites and have all of them become dog parks.

Mr. Hester stated that the Committee did a lot of work on this and when it came to him for his signature, he was concerned that suggesting only one or two sites could create some issues. He added two more dog parks as viable alternatives to the Committee's list.

Commissioner Livingstone said he wanted to remind the City Council that whenever they put in a dog park they are taking away parks space from kids.

President Saltzgaver stated that the same would happen with putting in a soccer field or ball field.

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Commissioner Guerra to recommend to the City Council that the four (4) sites of Scherer Park, Drake/Cesar E. Chavez Greenbelt, Wardlow and Golden, and Veterans Park are viable future dog park locations. The motion carried unanimously.

F. CITY SCHOOLS/JOINT COMMITTEE
Commissioner Tong Sangmeister, Chair

Commissioner Tong Sangmeister stated that the Committee did not meet.

Mr. Hester stated that he was invited to participate in a Senate Select Committee on Schools and the Community at Wilson High School and was asked to speak on joint use. It was going to be held by Senator Tom Torlakson, Supervisor Knabe, Senator Lowenthal, and the Mayor as a result of Senate Bill 35. He was asked to participate to speak on joint use, but they cancelled the hearing. They were looking at what cities are doing as it relates to joint use. Part of his conversation would have related to the findings of the Parks and Recreation Commission. The Bill allows the Long Beach Unified School District to work with other groups to be able to either use school facilities or build facilities on school sites. He said there are also funding opportunities to use state school money to cover some of the costs of community facilities.

President Saltzgaver stated that the letter approved at the last Commission meeting was sent to Superintendent Chris Steinhauer, who acknowledged the letter and said he was going over it. President Saltzgaver said he thought it important to follow up on that letter.

G. SPECIAL EVENTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE
Commissioner Livingstone, Chair

Commissioner Livingstone said that a meeting was scheduled, but due to various emergency reasons, there was no quorum.

V. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT TO COMMISSION**

A. DIRECTOR'S MONTHLY REPORT – JULY 2007

President Saltzgaver asked for any questions on the monthly report. There were none.

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Commissioner Tong Sangmeister to receive and file the Director's Monthly Report for July 2007. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. **CORRESPONDENCE**

President Saltzgaver said that there was no correspondence.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Saltzgaver stated that there was no unfinished business.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. RECOMMENDATION REGARDING "ERNEST S. MCBRIDE, SR. PARK" AS THE POTENTIAL NAME FOR CALIFORNIA RECREATION CENTER

Commissioner Livingstone said that he still has reservations about waiting a year, but this is very deserving.

It was moved by Commissioner Livingstone and seconded by Commissioner Guerra to recommend to the Housing and Neighborhood Committee and the full City Council that California Recreation Center be renamed "Ernest S. McBride, Sr. Park."

IX. COMMENTS

- A. AUDIENCE

President Saltzgaver asked for comments from the audience. There were none.

- B. STAFF

President Saltzgaver asked for comments from the staff.

Mr. Hester stated that he would like to brief the Commission about a program at MacArthur Park. There has been a lot of discussion and an article in the Press Telegram about a Graf Art program. This program has been in place for at least 15 years as part of the Homeland program that began when Dixie Swift was the supervisor. This is a program where young adults, ages 18 and older, have an opportunity to come to the park and do art designs with aerosol cans. That is the general concept. The perception is that the public can't believe the City is training kids to tag and graffiti all over the city. The part that is missing is that these are adults who are artists and are being supervised. This is an internationally recognized art medium. There is a piece at MacArthur that was done by a German artist who came over to participate in the program. Homeland is not your typical community center. It is the focal point of the whole diverse community in that area. It is a cutting edge, urban program. People who don't understand it see it as a different situation.

Mr. Hester said that with a different supervisor, the art had spread to areas outside to what they had agreed to. He said he is meeting with staff next week to reestablish protocol. One of the artists who painted there was hired by the Department to paint the Houghton Park skate park to eliminate some of the real graffiti there. He said that staff is also discussing using portable boards for the art.

Commissioner Livingstone said that one of Bill Pearl's issues is that the City is funding graffiti. How much money goes into that?

Mr. Hester responded that the only thing that the City funds is the recreation supervisor, who oversees the program and is also an artist. He works eight hours a week, for a total of about \$5,700 a year, and the City does not buy the paint.

Commissioner Livingstone asked if there was any control over the content of the art.

Mr. Hester stated that gang signs are not allowed and the art was not supposed to be visible from the street.

C. COMMISSIONERS

President Saltzgaver asked for comments from the Commissioners.

President Saltzgaver stated that the Queen Mary lease was put into escrow. He is concerned about what will happen to the Events Park, down the road. He heard that there were plans to develop it.

Mr. Hester responded stated that they cannot develop the Special Events Park because it is a dedicated park.

X. **NEXT MEETING**

President Saltzgaver stated that the next meeting would be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 20, 2007, at MacArthur Park/Homeland in the Community Center, 1321 East Anaheim Street, Long Beach.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

President Saltzgaver adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Black
Executive Assistant to the Director

c: Phil T. Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine